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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY

China

SUBJECT

Economic Information: Cargo of Soviet Ship
Tomsk and Activities of Crew, Shanghai

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- On 7 December 1947 the Soviet ship Tomsk arrived in Shanghai from Japan approximately eight months after leaving Nakhodka. Arriving in Japan with a cargo which included celluloid, the Tomsk had visited several ports delivering various unknown cargo.
- The Tomsk brought to Shanghai 170 tons of newsprint owned by Torgpredstvo in Shanghai and addressed to TASS News Agency. This newsprint was distributed to the Soviet Epoch Company; the Wang Li Press, 391 Wuting Road; and Novaya Zhizn (New Life), Soviet official Russian-language daily in Shanghai. None was distributed to V. A. Chilikin, publisher of Novosti Dnya (Daily News), Soviet Russian-language daily, because he had sold on the black market most of a previous allocation of newsprint.
- The crew of the Tomsk consists of 46 seamen, most of them young members of the Komsomol /All-Union Lenin Communist League of Youth/. They are poorly fed aboard ship. When the Tomsk docked in Shanghai, each crew member received an "advance" of CMC \$3,500,000 and each was permitted to purchase "what he needed" in Shanghai.
- The Tomsk was scheduled to leave Shanghai on 14 December 1947, but the departure was postponed for an unknown reason.
- One crew member, in conversation with a Russian emigre in Shanghai, a former Soviet employee, stated that he would desert and stay in Shanghai if he could be assured of employment and a Russian emigre passport. He claims that the Tomsk will visit Shanghai regularly in the future.

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